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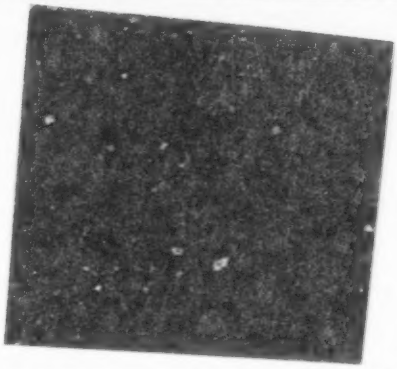

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report by the Director-General

Summary

Discusses activities and development of environmental management systems in developing countries and provides information on eco-labelling in the context of Agenda 21.

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Introduction

1. Resolution GC.6/Res.6 focused on the provision of support to technical service institutions and standards bodies in developing countries for effective application of relevant ISO standards, as well as on eco-labelling requirements. The present document reports on the implementation of that resolution, and will be updated in an addendum to be issued to the seventh session of the General Conference.

2. Under the component programme for environment-related industrial norms and standards for 1996-1997, the component team proposed separate work programmes for environmental management systems and eco-labelling.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

3. Programme activities under the heading of environmental management systems include:

(a) A second survey on the trade implications for industry in developing countries of voluntary international quality and environmental management systems (EMS), to ascertain the extent to which developing countries believe that it is important to conform to these standards and have the capacities to assist small and medium industries to adopt them. In the first survey, undertaken in 1995, developing countries responded that they had only limited information about EMS, but believed that it would be important for their competitive position in selected export markets to utilize EMS;

(b) An expert group meeting on the implications for industry in developing countries of voluntary international quality and environmental management systems. The meeting will be held in September 1997;

(c) General guidelines on EMS for small and medium industrial enterprises in developing countries. The guidelines will be prepared and tested during 1997, and information and promotion material will be available in mid-1997;

(d) Demonstration/training projects on EMS initiated in India;

(e) Seminars in several countries to create awareness for EMS implementation;

(f) A project to build the capacity for EMS implementation in the Czech Cleaner Production Centre and to transfer this experience to other centres.

II. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF ECO-LABELLING

4. Programme activities under the heading of eco-labelling for the 1996-1997 biennium include:

(a) In March 1997 an informal expert group meeting on international eco-labelling in the leather industry in Vienna was held to discuss and determine the parameters for the establishment of an international eco-labelling committee, as recommended by the Leather Products Panel in August 1995;

(b) A workshop on eco-labelling in the leather sector for South-East Asia to be convened at Madras, India, in October 1997.

III. UNIDO CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5. UNIDO prepared an Agenda 21 information kit for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21. The kit consists of a video on the UNIDO approach to sustainable industrial development, a brochure describing the UNIDO response to key chapters of Agenda 21, a compendium of case studies of UNIDO projects that illustrate the Organization's implementation of Agenda 21, technical brochures on selected UNIDO programmes, and a report entitled "Sustainable development: the concept and its measurement outlined in an industry perspective", as well as a number of other reference documents related to Agenda 21.

IV. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

6. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document and provide guidance for further action.